

Transcript of Press Availability After House Democratic Caucus Meeting

WASHINGTON – Congressman John Larson (CT-01) was joined by incoming [Senate Chairman](#) Charles Schumer and incoming [House Speaker](#) Nancy Pelosi. Below is the transcript of the press availability.

Rep. Larson: Well, good morning and we have just concluded our regular Democratic Caucus Meeting.

Let me say, as we have said repeatedly since we have come back with the compression of time that exists

Also, as we have reiterated here week in and week out, job creation equals deficit reduction. And the more

We're disheartened to see that we've already given up Friday. We don't know what the schedule is for now.

I believe it was the Australian Prime Minister who said, America is one vote away from claiming dominance.

With that, let me turn it over to the future Chair of the Democratic Caucus, Xavier Becerra.

Rep. Becerra: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

I guess I'm going to repeat what I've said before. Let's take, let's take the Tom Cole deal. Republican members.

And so I guess what we would do is repeat to Speaker Boehner. Mr. Boehner, take the 98% deal let the

Two thirds of the American public, we're learning now, object to way Speaker Boehner is handling these

What's at stake? Well, we're learning, beginning to learn, the American people are beginning to hear wh

And so, the reality is we have a solution, we've had a solution all along it's just a matter of letting the peo

Mr. Speaker, put the bill on the floor. Let's take the 98% deal as your own colleague, our colleague, Rep

And with that, let me yield to the future Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, our colleague from Ne

Rep. Crowley: Thank you Xavier, thank you John. Surprised to see so many members of the press corp

But I say that, in somewhat jest. Because there are an enormous number of things that we have to acco

You know, we all come here to do the job - if we're elected to do and it is very frustrating for us when we

That was one of the biggest things I heard about when I was running for re-election this year; I'm sure m

Economists not only from around the country, but from around the world are saying that a failure to get a

Rep. Larson: Thank you. We'll take some questions.

Q: Can you share with us any of the trickle out that you just talked about?

Rep. Larson: The trickle out.. (Laughter)

Q: The Congressman mentioned details were trickling out, could you please share?

Rep. Larson: Well I think what the Congressman was referring to is we hear the same kind of news that

Let me, let me say this. You know, we recognize and I think for the public, that the difficulty that Speaker

I do not believe that the Republican leader, Speaker Boehner, or their leadership will take this country on

We do have an opportunity to move forward. As Xavier has pointed out, we have bills on the floor, ready

Q: Mr. Larson, I understand in the President's budget there are cuts to Medicaid that are about \$100 billion

Rep. Larson: Well, until we see what those cuts are, it'd be hard for us to do that. But listen: you know, w

Where Democrats are rock solid is we don't think we should be impacting beneficiaries. On CSPAN this

We, like the President, also understand, though, that within the totality of the system and the impact on c

Q: Well, just a follow-up on that: does that mean eligibility age? That's one of the things being discussed

Rep. Larson: That's a simple matter of math. And the math just simply doesn't work. And so when you lo

Rep. Becerra: Mr. Chairman.

Rep. Larson: Yeah, go ahead, Xavier.

Rep. Becerra: If I could just add one thing. Where's the balance? Why is it that a senior on an income of

We're willing to make sure that everyone in America sacrifices a little, even those who've been struggling

Rep. Larson: Joe.

Rep. Crowley: I'll just add another point as well, and I—just to piggyback on what Xavier has just said. W

Rep. Larson: One more question.

Well thank you all very much—

Q: Sorry. Just to kind of continue on this conversation, what about something, you know, like CPI that co

Rep. Larson: But again—well, there's a whole series of math with respect to that as well. But let me go b

Look: an election took place. There was a campaign in that election where it was very clear what was at

Rep. Becerra: You struck a chord with question, and so—Republicans have proposed that to try to redu

It's a matter of fairness. The President calls it balance, I'll call it fairness. A lot of folks have given a lot to

And so my final point is this: whenever Republicans try to inject Social Security—to cut Social Security to

Rep. Crowley: If I could just add a point to that. You know, Social Security is one of the legs of retirement

Rep. Larson: Thank you everybody.

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